

## SEXTING TIPS

*“Sexting” usually refers to teens sharing nude photos via cell phone.*

### Know what is illegal

- If your kids take or send nude or sexually suggestive photos of themselves or anyone else, they could be charged with producing or distributing child pornography. If they keep them on their phone or computer they could be charged with possession.

### Non-legal consequences

- The emotional (and reputation) damage that can come from having intimate photos of your kid go to a friend who can become an ex-friend and send it to everyone they know.
- Not only can they be sent around; they can be distributed and archived online for people to search for forever.

### Many Causes

- In some cases, kids are responding to peer pressure in a form of cyber bullying or pressure from a boyfriend or girlfriend (they break up, and sometimes those photos get sent around out of revenge). Sometimes it's impulsive behavior, flirting, or even blackmail. It's always a bad idea.

### Parents: Talk with your kids

- About sexting in a relaxed setting. Ask them what they know about sexting. Express how you feel in a conversational, non-confrontational way.

## SEXTING TIPS

### Parents: Talk with your kids

- A two-way dialog can go a long way toward helping your kids understand how to minimize legal, social, and reputation risks.
- If your children have sent any nude pictures of themselves, make sure they stop immediately. Explain that they're at risk of being charged with producing and distributing child pornography. If they've received a nude photo, make sure they haven't sent it to anyone else.
- When talking with your child, stay calm, be supportive and learn as much as you can about the situation.

Source— <http://www.safeteens.com>



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## Internet Safety For Parents



# SOCIAL WEB SAFETY

## Learn about the internet

- Ask your children to show you how they use the Internet. Sit with your children off and on to see their favorite sites.
- Learn how to check what your children do online. There are several good sites that can teach parents how to track internet use.
- Learn how to use monitoring and blocking software. Be aware that even the best software can be circumvented.
- Talk to you children frequently about online dangers including sexual victimization.

## For Parents of Children (Aged 8-12)

- Keep the computer in a public place with the screen facing outward.
- Establish family rules and guidelines
  - A. no personal information given
  - B. no school information disclosed
  - C. review of pictures to be posted
- Reinforce the dangers of and penalties for sharing personal or school information
- Prohibit any meeting in person with someone he/she knows only online, unless you are present.
- Inform your children that you will monitor their intern use, instant messaging, and email in order to keep them safe.

# SOCIAL WEB SAFETY

## For Parents of Teenagers

- Share stories using real examples of teens who have been tricked or hurt because of unsafe online practices.
- Don't meet in person with someone you meet online.
  - A. do not meet alone
  - B. go with a trusted adult
  - C. meet in a public place
- Request to review pictures that your child wants to post.
- Do not overreact if and when you find out that your teen has done something online of which you do not approve.
- Let your teenager know that you will monitor internet use and that safety rules must be followed.
- If teens confide in you about something scary or inappropriate that they encountered online, your first response should not be to take away internet privileges. Try to be supportive and work with them to help prevent this from happening again.



# CELL PHONE SAFETY TIPS

## Be smart when using a cell phone

- All the same tips apply with phones as with computers. Just as in chat rooms and social sites, kids need to think about who they text and talk with. They should never text/talk about sex with strangers. Phones should only be used to communicate with people they know in the real world.

## Mobile social networking

- Many social sites have a feature that allows users to check their profiles and post comments from their phones. Teens can engage in social networking literally anywhere. Talk with your teens about where they're accessing their profiles or blogs from and whether they're using the same good sense about how they're social networking on their phones.

## Media-sharing by phone

- Most mobile phones we use today have cameras, some video cams– and teens love to share media with friends on all types of mobile devices. Talk with your teens about never letting other people photograph or film them in embarrassing or inappropriate situations (and vice versa). They need to understand their own and others' privacy rights in sharing photos and videos via cell phones.

